

## Megabucks offered for copy of yearbook

**Peggy Lowe**  
**Denver Post**

**May 20** - The Columbine High 1999 yearbook - originally sold for \$45 - is now worth thousands more on a kind of schoolbook black market.

The red leather-bound book, intended to traditionally commemorate the school year, is now coveted by every media outlet in the country, Columbine alumni and others.

Thousands of dollars have been offered to the yearbook publisher as well as Columbine students for one of the 314-page books. The yearbook has pictures of the 1,960 CHS students - including seniors Eric Harris and Dylan Klebold who are responsible for the deadliest school shooting spree in U.S. history.

A representative of the company that published the book was offered \$5,000 by a national television network. There are also rumors among Columbine students that some had been offered \$10,000 or more by newspapers, TV shows and grocery-store tabloids.

"It's a permanent relic of the year, I guess," said Eric Friesen, Columbine's English teacher and the yearbook coordinator.

Officially, the 1,750 copies of the yearbook are reserved for Columbine students and staff, Friesen said. Orders for the books were taken last fall, when the price was \$45. The few extra copies received when the yearbooks arrived last week were offered for \$50 to seniors first, then juniors, Friesen said.

But even before the books were handed out, media outlets were filling Friesen's voice mail with requests, wanting copies of the book for the students' pictures, past memories and predictions.

"Everything from CNN to the 'Today' show to MSNBC to all the local stations.. Just all the media angles," he said. "But the book's not really for the media. It's for the kids."

"The media's main question is, 'Are Dylan and Eric in the yearbook?' and the students' main question is, 'Am I in the yearbook?'" Friesen said.

The book, produced by the Columbine yearbook staff, was published by Herff Jones Yearbooks Inc. of Indianapolis. It was printed at the company's press factory in Logan, Utah.

Jim Herbertson, Herff Jones' representative in Denver, said he was offered \$5,000 by a national TV network two weeks before the books were given to students. He declined that offer, he said, and gave his two copies to the

school. "I gave my copies to the school so they could give them to the kids. The kids are more important," he said.

A supplement was added to Columbine's yearbook after the April 20 shootings, a four-page color section with pictures of the slain students and teacher Dave Sanders under a heading that reads "We are still Columbine." There are just two references to Harris and Klebold in the book, which was printed before the April 20 shootings. Both Harris' and Klebold's pictures are among the senior section. And their friend Nathan Dykeman used his "senior quote" to mention his friends.

"High school has been the best of times and the worst of times, but through it all two guys have been with me. Thanks for the memories and everlasting friendship Dylan and Eric," it reads.

Dykeman was unavailable for comment.

Both Friesen and Herbertson said it's unfortunate that the school year will now be remembered for the April 20 tragedy. They hope Columbine students will read the book and remember the good times of the 1998-99 school year, recalling its theme, "It's about you."

"Since it was such a positive book and a positive theme, the kids really have a lot of good memories out of it," Herbertson said.